

We claim:

1. A method of performing identifier registration comprising:  
establishing a connection with a registration process;  
providing authentication information to the registration process;  
5 submitting a registration request to the registration process; and  
receiving an embedder control file, including media signal identifiers and  
embedder instructions.
2. The method of claim 1 including:  
10 submitting the embedder control file to a watermark embedder, which  
automatically embeds a set of media signal files with corresponding identifiers according  
to the embedder instructions in the embedder control file.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the registration process is executed at an  
15 Internet server accessible via a web interface.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the registration request is submitted from a  
client computer to the registration process via an Internet communication protocol.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the embedder control file is received from the  
registration process via an Internet communication protocol.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein authentication information is provided in part  
by extracting information from a watermark embedded in an identity card and providing  
25 the extracted information to the registration process.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein a client computer establishes a connection with  
the registration process by extracting information from a watermark on a physical object  
and using that information to establish the connection.

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8. The method of claim 7 wherein the watermark on the physical object includes a reference used to look up a network address of the registration process in a database management system.

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9. The method of claim 8 wherein the database management system forwards information to the registration process to authenticate a user.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the information on the physical object includes a network address of the registration process.

11. A computer readable medium having software for performing the method of claim 1.

12. A method of performing identifier registration comprising:  
establishing a connection with a client process;  
receiving authentication information from the client process to authenticate a user;  
receiving a registration request from the client process;  
allocating a set of identifiers to media signal files based on the registration request;

constructing an embedder control file, including media signal identifiers and embedder instructions; and  
sending the embedder control file to the client process.

13. The method of claim 12 including:  
creating database records corresponding to the set of identifiers and including in the database records media signal information associated with media signal files into which the identifiers are to be embedded.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein the media signal information includes a network address of a network resource associated with a corresponding media signal.

5 15. A computer readable medium on which is stored software for performing the method of claim 12.

10 16. A watermark embedder operable to receive an embedder control file including a set of identifiers, embedder instructions and corresponding media signal files, and operable to automatically embed the identifiers in corresponding media signal files according to the embedder instructions.

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15 17. A media signal identifier registration server comprising:  
a network interface for receiving ID registration requests, the requests including a list of media signal files and information to be linked with the media signal files via data embedded in the media signal files;  
a batch registration loader for creating records in a registration database corresponding to identifiers for each of the media signal files; and  
20 a batch registration extractor for reading the registration database and creating an embedder control file, including identifiers, a corresponding list of media signal files, and embedding instructions for controlling embedding of the identifiers in the media signal files.